

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD) announced today that on November 8, 2000, the Government reached a civil settlement with Dr. Michael N. Baker, a York, ME anesthesiologist and his firm, York Anesthesia. Under the terms of the settlement, Baker will pay the Government a total of \$79,000 and be subject to a strict Government compliance program.

The settlement was the outcome of an investigation based on allegations that Baker had fraudulently billed several federal health care programs, including Medicare, TRICARE and Medicaid. Baker was alleged to have billed for services performed by him when in fact the treatment was provided by Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists. Some of the claims to the federal government programs involved instances when Baker was not even present at York Hospital where he was Chief of Anesthesiology. The settlement addresses 117 specific instances in which fraudulent billings were alleged to have occurred.